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THE GREAT YARMOUTH

Urban & Port Sanitary Authority.

THE
ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
Medical Officer of Health
FOR 1896.

—:O:—
PRINTED BY ORDER OF THE SANITARY AUTHORITY.
—:O:—

Great Yarmouth :

J. BUCKLE, STEAM PRINTER, 36, KING STREET.

1897.



URBAN REPORT.

TO THE GREAT YARMOUTH URBAN SANITARY
AUTHORITY.

GENTLEMEN,

The following I respectfully submit for your consideration as my Annual Report for 1896.

The estimated population of this Borough stood, on the 1st of last July, at 50,556, and by the end of the year it had probably increased to 50,783.

The vital statistics I have to call your attention to refer to the fifty-two weeks ending with the 2nd of January, 1897. During that time there were registered, as occurring within the limits of your district,

1,438 BIRTHS and 872 DEATHS.

By applying these figures to the estimated population as given for the middle of last year, there evolves a

BIRTH RATE of 28·38 and a

DEATH RATE of 17·21 per 1,000.

Of all the births 6·8 per cent. were illegitimate. Rather over 15 per cent. of the entire baby population of last year died before it was a twelvemonth old; the mortality of those born in wedlock was 14·6 per cent., whilst the rate obtaining with those not so happily circumstanced was 24·2 per cent. The national mortality of infants under one year was 14·8 per cent.

The increase of births over deaths were in the North District, 123 ; in the South District, 164 ; in Gorleston and Southtown, 262 ; and in Runham Vauxhall, 17 ; making a total of 566. We know from the figures revealed to us by recent censuses that no such increase is permanently added to our population ; in fact we cannot calculate upon even much as half that number staying with us.

The estimated population I have apportioned to each of the three registration districts within this borough is given in the official table on page 9, and the death rates arising in the same localities were as under :—

17·56	per 1,000	in the Northern District,			
19·42	„	„	Southern	„	and
14·12	„	„	Gorleston and Southtown.		

At the Workhouse, in the Northern District, there were 75 deaths of townspeople and three strangers. At the Royal Naval Asylum, in the Southern, there were 12 deaths of men belonging to the Royal Navy, and at the Public Hospital, in the same district, there were 29 deaths. How many strangers or visitors dying outside public institutions were included in the Yarmouth death roll of last year I am unable to say, as the weekly death returns I have from the registrars do not indicate a stranger's late home, only the address at which the deceased died in this borough.

The table of deaths on pages 6 and 7 is in accordance with the Local Government Board's direction, and exhibits many particulars as to the ages and causes of death within your sanitary district during 1896. I have supplemented it by giving the totals for several years past, so that comparison of the various years may be made.

Of the zymotic diseases the Registrar-General takes special cognizance of as indicative of insanitary conditions,

and which he quotes against us, there were within the Borough during last year 89 deaths, producing a death rate of 1·75 per 1,000 of the persons then living here. These figures, with the chief of those given on previous pages, I here tabulate, so as to bring them into contrast with the averages of the ten years last past.

Periods.	Births.	Rate.	Deaths.	Rate.	Zymotic Deaths.	Rate.
During 1896	1438	28·38	872	17·21	89	1·75
Average of ten years 1886-95 }	1525	30·73	972	19·58	125	2·53

It would be exceedingly interesting to know how the above rates compare with those of other towns of similar size to Yarmouth, but the Registrar-General, in his Quarterly Reports, does not now give the birth or death rates for each of the towns he groups with Yarmouth. He, however, gives certain death rates for large aggregates of population, which enables me to place before you the following table.

Annual death rates per 1,000 from all causes, and from the principal Zymotic diseases during 1896:—

	All Causes.	Princpl. Zymotic Disease	Small Pox.	Measles	Scarlet Fever.	Diphtheria.	Whoop- ing, Cough.	Fever.	Diarrhoea.
England and Wales	17·1	2·18	0·62	0·56	0·18	0·29	0·41	0·17	0·55
33 Great Towns ..	18·9	2·86	0·00	0·71	0·22	0·38	0·57	0·19	0·79
67 other Towns .. (including Yarmouth)	17·3	2·51	0·12	0·64	0·19	0·25	0·43	0·20	0·68
England & Wales } less the 100 Towns }	15·8	1·60	0·00	0·43	0·14	0·23	0·30	0·14	0·36
Yarmouth (alone)	17·21	1·75	0·00	0·55	0·01	0·05	0·37	0·29	0·45

TABLE OF

During the year 1896, in the Urban Sanitary District of Great Yarmouth.

Names of Localities adopted for the purposes of these Statistics. (a)	Mortality from all causes, at subjoined ages.						
	At all ages. (b)	Under 1 year. (c)	1 and under 5. (d)	5 and under 15. (e)	15 and under 25 (f)	25 and under 65. (g)	65 and upwards. (h)
NORTHERN DISTRICT	378	91	29	13	11	98	136
SOUTHERN DISTRICT	309	73	33	12	10	95	86
GORLESTON & SOUTHTOWN	178	54	16	9	4	51	44
RUNHAM VAUXHALL	7	2	1	—	1	2	1
TOTALS ..	872	220	79	34	26	246	267

During the Year 1895 ..	960	269	83	26	32	258	292
Ditto 1894 ..	790	189	77	38	37	213	236
Ditto 1893 ..	980	249	98	51	43	297	242
Ditto 1892 ..	1030	231	122	29	48	290	310
Ditto 1891 ..	1042	248	133	52	36	260	295
Ditto 1890 ..	986	271	90	50	42	222	311
Ditto 1889 ..	875	249	79	37	48	197	265
Ditto 1888 ..	1002	290	82	28	43	258	301
Ditto 1887 ..	986	265	129	31	57	214	290

DEATHS,

classified according to Diseases, Ages and Localities.

Mortality from subjoined causes, distinguishing Deaths of Children under Five Years of age.

(i)	Smallpox.	Scarlatina.	Diphtheria.	Membranous Croup.	Fevers.					Cholera.	Erysipelas.	Measles.	Whooping Cough	Diarrhoea and Dysentery.	Rheumatic Fever	Phthisis.	Bronchitis, Pneumonia & Pleurisy.	Heart Disease.	Influenza.	Injuries.	All other Diseases	Total.
					Typhus	Enteric or Typhoid.	Continued.	Relapsing.	Puerperal.													
Under 5	—	0	1	—	—	0	—	—	—	—	0	7	9	8	—	0	28	0	0	2	65	120
5 upwds	—	1	2	—	—	6	—	—	—	—	2	1	0	4	—	12	35	34	3	11	147	258
Under 5	—	—	—	—	—	0	—	—	—	—	0	16	6	5	—	0	16	0	0	2	61	106
5 upwds	—	—	—	—	—	6	—	—	—	—	2	1	0	1	—	12	31	20	8	10	112	203
Under 5	—	—	—	—	—	0	—	—	—	—	0	3	3	4	—	0	11	0	0	1	48	70
5 upwds	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	1	0	1	1	—	9	14	13	1	7	59	108
Under 5	—	—	—	—	—	0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	0	—	—	2	3
5 upwds	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	1	4
Under 5	—	0	1	—	—	0	—	—	—	—	0	26	18	17	—	0	56	0	0	5	176	299
5 upwds	—	1	2	—	—	15	—	—	—	—	5	2	1	6	—	33	81	68	12	28	319	573
Under 5	—	4	3	2	—	1	—	—	0	—	0	18	5	77	0	2	47	0	1	7	185	352
5 upwds	—	2	3	0	—	13	—	—	3	—	3	3	0	8	3	46	77	85	27	29	306	608
Under 5	—	5	11	2	—	0	—	—	0	—	1	5	17	10	0	1	61	0	—	9	144	266
5 upwds	—	2	3	2	—	11	—	—	1	—	2	0	0	2	4	44	66	71	—	26	290	524
Under 5	—	4	7	3	—	3	0	—	0	0	1	10	16	54	0	2	64	0	—	8	175	347
5 upwds	—	7	8	0	—	15	2	—	3	3	6	3	0	16	5	50	98	65	—	24	328	433
Under 5	2	7	3	3	—	1	—	—	0	—	0	5	36	32	—	2	71	0	—	13	178	353
5 upwds	2	3	5	0	—	18	—	—	1	—	2	0	1	7	—	63	142	59	—	29	344	677
Under 5	—	10	9	3	—	2	0	—	0	—	1	18	22	38	0	1	78	0	—	6	193	381
5 upwds	—	1	10	0	—	28	3	—	3	—	3	1	0	8	3	69	97	56	—	33	328	643
Under 5	—	1	3	2	—	1	1	—	0	—	0	2	21	46	0	9	60	0	—	6	209	361
5 upwds	—	0	0	1	—	32	2	—	4	—	3	0	2	12	2	63	96	51	—	26	331	625
Under 5	—	—	1	3	—	4	—	—	0	—	3	18	1	53	0	10	56	0	—	8	174	328
5 upwds	—	—	1	2	—	21	—	—	2	—	0	2	0	5	2	59	55	54	—	31	310	574
Under 5	1	—	1	7	0	0	0	—	0	—	2	1	11	65	0	9	55	1	—	5	214	372
5 upwds	0	—	1	0	1	19	3	—	3	—	1	0	0	6	2	60	108	62	—	35	330	630
Under 5	—	4	2	8	—	4	—	—	0	0	1	25	14	42	0	1	92	1	—	6	194	394
5 upwds	—	3	0	3	—	18	—	—	5	1	3	0	2	1	1	64	87	66	—	42	295	592

The first line of figures relates to England and Wales as a whole, *i.e.*, all the urban and rural districts massed together ; the second line relates to London and the great centres of trade and commerce, wherein the conditions of health in the aggregate are generally considered most unfavourable ; the third line relates to the large urban districts ; while the fourth line relates to all the small towns and rural districts in which the conditions of health are most favourable ; the fifth line, relating to Yarmouth alone, is from my own data.

From the above table it will be seen the Yarmouth gross death rate last year was rather below the average of the towns Yarmouth ranks with in population ; and this was also true of the Zymotic death rate. As regards our local records I may point out that both rates were below the average obtaining in this borough during the previous ten years. It may be interesting to note that 298 of the deaths were those of persons well advanced in years, *viz.* :

92 were between 60 and 70			
143	„	„	70 „ 80
61	„	„	80 „ 90
and 2 were over 90.			

From considering our last year's record of deaths, we now pass to our record of illnesses caused by infectious diseases, and made known to us through the operation of the Notification Act. The following table of the numbers, nature, and locality of such illnesses, is prepared by direction of the Local Government Board, and it also indicates the numbers of such cases treated in the Isolation Hospital. Of the 349 cases reported, 161 were received into your Hospital, *i.e.*, just over 46 per cent. This is the largest total number, and also the largest proportion of the cases notified, ever received into your Hospital in any one year.

Further accommodation for both patients and staff is much needed at the Hospital, and I respectfully urge this matter upon your early consideration.

By the table I have placed hereunder, you may see the monthly record of notified cases of each of the infectious diseases and the deaths resulting throughout the year.

MONTH.	Diphtheria.		Erysipelas.		Scarlet Fever.		Typhoid.		Continued.		Puerperal.		Totals.	
	Sickness.	Deaths.	Sickness.	Deaths.	Sickness.	Deaths.	Sickness.	Deaths.	Sickness.	Deaths.	Sickness.	Deaths.	Sickness.	Deaths.
JANUARY	1	..	8	..	22	..	19	2	1	..	..	..	51	2
FEBRUARY	..	..	2	1	10	..	23	4	1	..	..	..	36	5
MARCH	1	..	3	..	10	..	26	2	2	..	..	..	42	2
APRIL	..	..	1	..	14	..	6	..	..	..	..	..	21	..
MAY	1	..	4	..	14	..	4	3	2	..	..	..	25	3
JUNE	..	..	2	1	9	..	2	..	3	..	..	..	16	1
JULY	1	..	2	..	22	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	26	1
AUGUST	1	..	3	..	11	..	6	1	1	..	..	..	22	1
SEPTEMBER.	2	2	1	..	7	..	12	..	..	..	1	..	23	2
OCTOBER	..	..	..	..	13	..	7	1	2	..	..	..	22	1
NOVEMBER	2	..	2	1	19	..	11	1	4	..	..	..	38	2
DECEMBER	3	1	4	2	10	..	10	1	..	..	..	..	27	4
Totals	12	3	32	5	161	1	127	15	16	..	1	..	349	24

All houses invaded by Scarlet Fever, or Diphtheria, are thoroughly disinfected upon the removal of the patient or termination of the case. In addition to the sulphur fumigation, directed by the Local Government Board circular, the walls, ceiling and floor of the apartment the patient has laid in, are washed with the official solution of corrosive sublimate, and all the contents of the room, except furniture, which is wiped with corrosive, are treated in the disinfecting apparatus with super-heated steam. I need hardly add all other precautions are taken, which, according to the circumstances of the case, whether of Scarlet Fever or any other infectious disease, are necessary or desirable.

The excreta of typhoid patients is treated with disinfectants before removal, per w.c., or if the house is not so furnished, then by pail, daily, and is buried in land well away from dwellings.

The sanitary conditions of the houses in which fever occurred were carefully examined, and in very many of them defects were discovered, which were dealt with by your Sanitary Inspectors.

In former reports I have indicated many conditions which have appeared to me as unhealthful in their influence, if not positively provocative of disease; and you have carried out very large and costly works during recent years to abate those conditions and to improve the sanitary state of the borough. Other and expensive improvements are now on hand which, when completed, cannot fail to operate for the well-being of the inhabitants. Private sanitary improvements in dwellings, and about them, are being pushed by your Sanitary Officers with considerable energy, so that the conditions under which the people live in Yarmouth, are considerably more healthful now than they were, say, twenty years ago. At this moment you have an Improvement Bill before Parliament containing Sanitary Clauses far in advance of the Statute law, and this is good evidence of your determination to be in the fore front of sanitary progress.





SANITARY WORK.

NUISANCE REMOVAL.

This year I chronicle another change in the Sanitary staff and arrangements. Inspector Crane, who I mentioned last year as having the northern part of the district as the area of his duties, resigned last October, and Inspector Hassall, who at that time had the rest of the district under his immediate charge, was promoted to the Inspectorship of the whole Borough. An Assistant Inspector was subsequently appointed, to act generally under the direction of the Chief Inspector, and to aid him in every manner he is capable of doing.

The several changes the Inspectorial staff has undergone during recent years have disturbed the even tenor of the work of the Sanitary Department to some extent, but the efficiency of that now being done, is much in advance of any hitherto accomplished. The multifarious nature of the duty now devolving upon the Sanitary Inspector may be gathered from the following :—

“ I beg to submit my Annual Report of work done during the year ending December, 1896 ; also that reported by Mr. Crane during the nine months ending with September, being the period he held office.

“ The following are the particulars of nuisances reported to the Committee, and dealt with by their orders,

also other work of like nature, but carried out by informal or verbal orders :—

Notices served by order of Sanitary Committee	473
Preliminary notices and verbal instructions ...	227
Complaints received and attended to ...	84
Re-inspections made to secure completion of work	648
Outstanding notices at the end of the year not complied with	14

PARTICULARS OF WORK.

To re-place privies with water closets ...	180
„ lay new drains	29
„ partly re-lay drains	78
„ fix earthenware syphon gullies	176
„ repair defective drains	40
„ cleanse blocked drains	52
„ provide flushing cisterns to closets ...	37
„ cleanse filthy houses	22
„ remove offensive accumulations	26
„ prohibit overcrowding	6
„ remove animals from houses	34
„ close polluted wells	14
„ remove and repair privies	46
„ disconnect sink and pantry waste pipes ...	38
„ concrete or re-lay yards and passages ...	135
„ re-place iron bell and D. traps	16
„ fix and ventilate soil pipes	27
„ intercept house drains from sewers ...	18
„ abolish underground rain water cisterns ...	32
„ repair roofs, eaves, spouting and wall pipes ...	14
„ cleanse and repair slaughter-houses and cow sheds	7
„ provide ventilation under floors	20
„ fix urinals, repair and screen	12
„ cut off rain water pipes from drains ...	44

To repair water closets	26
„ samples of water tested by Medical Officer of Health	24
„ samples of water analysed	17
„ pan container closets abolished	17
„ pedestal closets fixed	15
„ provide new sinks and lavatories	7
„ prohibit smoke nuisances	2
„ provide ventilation to work rooms	4
„ provide water supply to houses and workshops	33
„ make houses habitable	14
„ cleanse and repair bake-houses	11
„ fix access syphons under sinks, etc.	12
„ repair dangerous buildings	5
„ provide earth closets	4
„ miscellaneous items	20

SALE OF FOOD AND DRUGS ACTS, 1875 AND 1879.

“The following table shews the number of samples taken during the year for analysis and the results obtained :—

Description.	Number of Samples.	Results of Analysis.		Cautioned by Committee	Remarks.
		Genuine.	Adulterated.		
Milk ..	10	4	3	3	Two fined 40/- and one 20/-
Butter ..	2	1	1	..	One fined 20/- and 20/6 costs
Coffee ..	2	..	2	1	One fined 10/- and 20/6 costs
Cocoa ..	2	..	..	..	Not submitted
Total	16	5	6	4	

DAIRIES, COWSHEDS AND MILKSHOPS.

“There are 28 cowsheds and dairies on the register and 49 milkshops. These have been regularly inspected, 13 were found in a dirty condition, which have since been cleansed; five milk sellers have been requested to remove paraffin oil from milk stores, and 24 to provide suitable coverings to the milk vessels, six accumulations of manure have been removed from yards, &c., four pigs removed from cowsheds, and five milk vessels were found to be kept in a dirty condition on inspection. There has been two cowsheds closed, and three milkshops changed hands during the year.

BAKEHOUSES.

“Eighty-six Bakehouses are on the register. The whole of these have been inspected, two have changed hands during the year, 11 informal notices were served to linewash, and 31 verbal instructions given, one has been abolished, and two are now undergoing structural alterations. A large number of bakehouses are very old and in a semi-delapidated condition. There are five that can be classed as models, one underground, and one being erected on the latest sanitary principles.

OFFENSIVE TRADES.

“There are 14 offensive trades upon the register. These have had my frequent attention. At three factories alterations have been made, viz., conical hoods and shafts have been fixed to the coppers and tanks wherein certain manufacturers treat fats, bones, and other offensive material, so that the noxious vapours emitted during the process of melting, &c., have been made to pass through the furnaces, or into suitable condensing apparatus, before

entering the external air, and as far as possible prevented nuisances arising. Since these alterations were effected the complaints have been less frequent, and it is hoped that other manufacturers will adopt similar methods and render action by the Sanitary Committee unnecessary.

FISH SHOPS.

“There are 42 fish shops in the borough, which have been visited several times during the year. One fried fish shop has been closed, it being insanitary, and at my instance the frying stoves of another were removed to outside premises, and four have had hoods connected to chimneys to modify any nuisance arising from fumes when frying is going on. Most of the fish shops are now being kept in a good condition, only two have had notices served to cleanse their premises.

SLAUGHTER-HOUSES.

“There are 24 slaughter-houses and 2 knacker’s premises in the borough. To these 194 visits were made, and with few exceptions they were found kept in good condition.

COMMON LODGING HOUSES.

“There are eight registered common lodging houses in the Borough, and they have been visited several times, but owing to my district being recently enlarged so as to embrace the whole of these houses, I have not yet had the opportunity of making such an examination of them in detail as would enable me to vouch for their entirely satisfactory conditions as is required by the Public Health Act, 1875. I hope to report more fully on these another year.

THE NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES ACT

“ During last year led to much work in the Sanitary department. Of the cases notified, 143 patients were removed to the Isolation Hospital and a thorough disinfection of the houses, bedding and clothes infected by Scarlet Fever or Diphtheria, was carried out by the staff of this office. In houses where Typhoid occurred I paid particular attention to the removal of excreta, causing w.c's. and drains to be well flushed with disinfectants, and at those houses not provided with w.c's. our pail system for Typhoid cases was rigidly enforced. Also by personal interviews with those having charge of the sick, and with the aid of printed circulars of instruction for maintaining isolation, cautions to employers, school teachers, or others the patient might come in contact with, I used my best endeavours to prevent, as quietly as I could, the dissemination of infectious disease.

DRAIN TESTING.

“ During the year the drains of 57 houses were tested with the smoke test, and the following table shews the result in the detection of the escapes of sewer gas found. Many of these drains were in connection with some of the largest and better class houses in the town :—

Into breakfast rooms, sitting and dining rooms ...	14
„ Kitchens, butler's pantries, sculleries and larders	15
„ Internal water closets	9
„ External „	7
„ Yards from defective drains	3
From heads and joints of rain water pipes being untrapped and connected direct ...	8
	<hr/> 56 <hr/>

MARGARINE ACT, 1887.

“Sixty-six circular notices (issued by the Town Clerk) have been served on dealers in margarine, drawing their attention to the requirements of this Act ; in four cases dealers were cautioned for exposing Margarine for sale in contravention to the Act ; proper labels and wrappers have in each case since been provided. No proceedings have been taken during the year.

HOUSING OF THE WORKING CLASSES ACT, 1890.

“Fourteen houses have been dealt with under this Act, three have been abolished as dwellings, four made habitable, six closed, and one remaining to be dealt with.

FACTORY AND WORKSHOPS ACTS, 1891 AND 1895.

“Thirteen notices respecting insanitary arrangements were received from Her Majesty’s Chief Inspector of Factories.

“The following table shews the sanitary arrangements carried out in connection with the above notices, also the defects found by workshop inspection :—

To provide water closets	...	...	6
„ cases of overcrowding abated	...	...	3
„ new workshops erected	...	...	1
„ water closets and drains repaired	...	...	3
„ earthenware syphon gullies fixed	...	...	7
„ yards concreted or repaired	...	...	4
„ ventilation provided	...	...	2
„ premises limewashed or cleansed	...	...	5
„ water supplies provided (for drinking purposes)	...	...	3

SHOP HOURS ACT, 1892.

“There has been no complaint received during the past year under this Act.

“The following nuisances were reported by Mr. Crane to Committee, from January to September, 1896 :—

To replace privies with water closets	...	126
„ fix earthenware syphon gullies	... ..	72
„ concrete or repair yards	... ..	44
„ divert sink wastes from drains	... ..	12
„ clear blocked drains	... ..	9
„ lay new drains	... ..	12
„ repair defective drains	... ..	16
„ provide flushing cisterns to closets	...	4
„ ventilate soil pipes	... ..	6
„ close polluted wells	... ..	11
„ repair or remove privies	... ..	14
„ fill up underground cisterns	... ..	2
„ cleanse filthy houses	... ..	5
„ repair water closets	... ..	9
„ repair and cleanse slaughter-houses and cow-sheds	... ..	6
„ make houses habitable	... ..	8
„ fix pedestal closets	... ..	2
„ remove offensive accumulations	... ..	10
„ remove animals from houses	... ..	2
„ repair rain water troughing	... ..	5
„ bottomfye offensive dykes	... ..	4
„ miscellaneous items	... ..	16

“Much of the above work was still unfinished when Mr. Crane left, and by order of the Sub Sanitary Committee, I am inspecting and dealing with all such arrears.

(Signed) SAMUEL HASSALL, *Inspector of Nuisances.*”

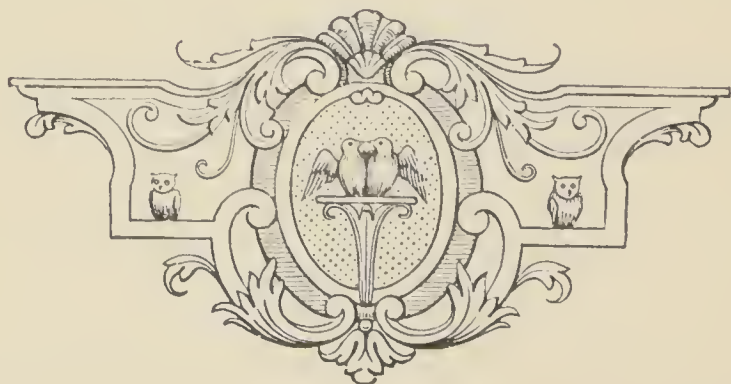
The Inspector of Fish reports that during last year he seized at the Fishwharf and elsewhere, in Fish Shops, and

caused to be destroyed, the following quantities of unwholesome fish :—

- 3 Bags of Cockles
- 5 Boxes of Norway Herrings
- 84 Swills of Home Herrings
- 11 Trunks of Trawl Fish
- 4 Bags and 3 peds of Whelks
- 12 Swills and 8 Boxes of Mackerel

In all estimated to weigh about 12 tons.

I have given throughout the year a daily attendance at the Sanitary Office, supervising and directing the operations of the Inspectors, frequently visiting with them houses and localities in which they may have had Sanitary matters on hand. I have also made a personal inspection of many of the houses in which infectious diseases have occurred, and frequently visited and constantly directed the management of the Isolation Hospital. This work, with attendances at evening Committees generally once a week, has left me but little leisure for other professional employment.





PORT SANITARY AFFAIRS.

TO THE GREAT YARMOUTH PORT SANITARY AUTHORITY.
GENTLEMEN,

By the courtesy of the Customs Authorities, I am informed there were upon the Register of this Port, on the 31st of last December,

80 Merchant Vessels and 639 Fishing Vessels.

Apparently no information is forthcoming as to the number of men forming the crews of the Merchant Vessels, and it is suggested those sailing in the Fishing Vessels would probably number 3,637.

The number of arrivals during last year were 1,071 coming coastwise, and 458 coming over sea. Many of these arrivals, especially those coastwise, are periodical traders to this port, and in the above figures some such vessels are re-counted as many as 52 times.

In point of fact, including foreigners, we had here about 372 vessels from other ports, apart from fishing vessels, and they brought crews numbering 2,806 persons.

No case of infectious sickness was brought us from foreign ; but three cases of Typhoid were landed from the fishing fleet.

Early in the year two smacks were reported at the Custom House as lost at sea with all hands, thus taking

twelve lives ; nineteen other lives were lost singly by the men being washed overboard, or killed by accident. In all 31 deaths at sea were officially reported.

Under my supervision the Port Sanitary Inspector has done his work systematically, and, I believe, efficiently, which last year was considerably augmented by reason of the purchase to this port of a Grimsby trawling fleet, and the large use made of our fish market by the Lowestoft herring boats. He has reported his proceedings by his journal and diary to your Sub-Committee twice each month, and has informed me daily of his action, and every matter of any moment coming under his cognizance. The chief feature of his work last year was the attention he gave to the fishing craft, with many satisfactory results. His Annual Report, which give details of the duty he performed during 1896, is as follows :—

“ I inspected 1,310 vessels in all, viz :—

372 Steamers and Merchant Vessels.

770 Smacks and Fishing Boats, and

168 Yachts and Wherries.

“ Of these I found 839 satisfactorily clean, and 471 requiring cleansing in some one or more particulars. Of these latter I saw that my directions were carried out on board 458 vessels, and on the 31st of last December on 13 vessels was work still in progress, or the vessel had gone on voyage. In superintending the cleansing work I directed on the above mentioned vessels, I made second and third visits to many, so that after the 1,310 inspections, I made 1,256 subsequent visits, in all I made 2,566 visits during the year.

“ The nature of my directions were as under :—

To cleanse generally cabin or forecastle	...	67
„ cleanse and whitewash bunks	...	404

To wash clothes or bedding	...	...	2
„ cleanse biscuit lockers or meat casks	...	...	27
„ cleanse water tanks or casks	...	...	55
„ pump out and cleanse bilges	...	...	61
„ cleanse closets (w.c.)	...	...	26
Vessels supplied with fresh water in lieu of that thrown overboard as coming from a suspicious source	...	...	11
Vessels supplied with disinfectants by reason of offensive cargoes	...	..	7
“ Total number of orders given			660

“ The nationalities of the stranger vessels arriving here last year, specifying the number of them I found dirty in some one or more particulars, and the number of seamen those vessels carried, I give hereunder :—

No. and Nationality of Vessels.		No. of Vessels found more or less dirty.	No of Seamen.
194 English (of other Ports than Yarmouth)	...	36	1258
59 Norwegian	...	11	485
30 Swedish	...	4	249
18 Danish	...	2	112
23 Russian	...	10	193
24 German	...	2	212
11 French	...	2	209
10 Dutch	...	—	71
3 Belgian	...	—	17

“ In January last year 88 Smacks and Steam Trawlers arrived here from Grimsby, having been purchased by Messrs. Hewett & Co. (Limited). I found most of them in a filthy condition and swarmed with rats. Their bilges, ballast, bunks, lockers, tanks, &c., were extremely foul, and

beneath the flooring of the cabin, in many instances, I found a large accumulation of filthy, putrifying sweepings, emitting the most offensive odour. The purifying, cleaning, and repair of these dirty vessels was the work of several months; most of them, having their ballast taken out, were fumigated with sulphur to kill the vermin in them, then scrubbed, scoured and cleaned. Upon the completion of the necessary repairs, each vessel was rendered wholesome and habitable by tarring the hold, whitewashing the bunks and painting the cabin. Not a few of these Fishing Vessels from Grimsby, however, were found in so deplorable a condition as to be not worth repairing, and they are being broken up.

“ On board our own smacks, natives I may call them, a more cleanly condition generally prevail, but in the storage of their drinking water, very many might have better arrangements. The water cask, frequently an old wine or spirit butt, stands in the hold, and as the dip hole is generally left uncovered, rats sometimes get drowned in the cask, and a variety of other abominations find their way into the drinking water. I have raked out of some of the casks dead rats, putred fish, rotten potatoes and other refuse. In one cask I found as many as sixteen rats, in various stages of decay. All such polluted water casks were got on shore and thoroughly cleaned; those needing it being charred on the inside. But some of our newer vessels are fitted with galvanized iron tanks, whence the water is drawn by tap. As these tanks are properly covered and securely fastened, no filth of any kind can gain access to the water, and the crews appreciate them much more than the old water cask.

“ My routine work has been a daily round of the harbour visiting vessels, and a frequent intercourse with Customs’ officers, pilots and others from whom I might

gather information to aid me in my duty. I have also given much attention to wherries and other river craft, and in order to place myself more in touch with the owners of all such as are used for pleasure purposes upon the rivers and broads during the summer months, *i.e.*, used as dwellings, I made my usual spring and summer journeys to the yachting rendezvous on the rivers, and inspected the craft I found there fitting out and in actual use, distributing to the master of each vessel a card to fix up in the cabin cautioning 'yachtsmen and others to be particularly careful in taking drinking water from the villages along the river banks. That from wells in close proximity to dwellings or near the river should, if possible, be avoided; but a supply of good water can always be obtained at the Yacht Station, or Fisher's Quay, Great Yarmouth.' My notice card further declares 'all river craft must be kept scrupulously clean, and the bilges frequently pumped out.'

"No application has yet been made to me to register any wherry as a canal boat under the Act, but I have repeatedly visited all such craft trading on our rivers and coming within the area of the Port Sanitary District, where I deal with them. They are now in a satisfactory condition and their cabins clean and comfortable. No case of infectious disease occurred on board any of them.

"As custodian of the mortuary at Gorleston Pier, I have to report six bodies were received there during last year.

"In concluding this my third annual report, I may again refer to the smooth and steady progress I have made with the sanitation of vessels using this port. Nothing of any difficulty arose last year, and no one really withstood my orders or directions.

(Signed) HENRY DENTON, *Port Sanitary Inspector.*"

The attention the Inspector has been given to the cleanliness of the smacks and fishing vessels will, I think, be generally recognised as good service. These vessels should be as clean and wholesome as possible.

From the rivers flowing to the sea through Yarmouth Harbour a considerable quantity of eels are taken, and the smaller of them, not immediately saleable, are stored in order to grow larger in eel trunks and old boats converted into huge tanks perforated beneath the water, so that the tide can flow through them. The eels are found to improve more rapidly in the presence of sewage, and it has long been the custom to moor these eel receptacles near the sewer outfalls. Bearing in mind the scant cooking eels sometimes undergo, and apprehensive of mischief arising therefrom, the Inspector has pointed out to the eelmen the possibility of danger attending the laying of their boats and trunks near the sewers, and have caused them to find other and less objectionable moorings. A constant oversight, however, is necessary to maintain this, as the men are by no means convinced of the necessity for leaving their old localities.

The nuisance arising from the pumping of offensive bilge overside into the haven, a practice the Scotch fishermen were formerly notorious for, is becoming much less noticeable. By filling in the floors of the boats with concrete, instead of loose ballast, no interspaces are left for bilge water and drainage from the herring to putrify in, and consequently the boat is kept dryer and more wholesome.

In no instance last year had legal proceedings to be taken to enforce the directions of your Inspector. His

orders are reasonable and invariably readily complied with. The seamen and fishermen recognise and appreciate his labour as for their particular benefit.

I respectfully submit the foregoing for your consideration,

And am, Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

JOHN BATELY, M.D.,

Medical Officer of Health.



